

# **Drought Contingency Plan for Mason Creek**

**Updated – 2018**

The following information will explain the various *STAGES* of the drought plan as approved by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and approved by the Board of Directors of Mason Creek Utility District. The original drought plan was proposed in July of 2000 and approved by the Board of Directors in August of 2000. A resolution approving the plan was signed on August 16, 2000.

The different *STAGES* are based on total pumpage and the Districts ability to produce enough water to maintain an adequate drinking water supply as well as enough water for fire protection. The drought stages can also be put in effect by TCEQ, even though the district has the ability to produce enough water for normal supply, the district will require our residents to comply with the drought plan in effect.

## **About our Water System**

Mason Creek Utility District (the district) has 4 water wells that supply the system. The wells range in depth from 1,200ft. to over 1,500 ft. The four wells can produce a total of 5,800 gpm. The water is treated and stored in five ground storage tanks which can hold 2,940,000 gals. until needed. We have one elevated tower which holds 500,000 gal. and helps maintain the systems pressure at 60 psi.

The pumps that deliver the water into the system can produce over 5,000 gpm. if needed. The average daily water usage is just over one million gpd.

The district asked all of its residents to help conserve water. Water is no longer something that can be used without thinking of cost and dwindling supplies. Large cities are using more surface water from lakes and rivers to maintain their drinking water supply. They are looking at re-use programs for irrigation of parks and public spaces.

If you have comments or questions about the enclosed plan, you may call the main office at 281-578-7272 or email to [directors@mcud.com](mailto:directors@mcud.com).

# **Drought Contingency Plan For Mason Creek**

**August 9, 2000**

## **Section I: Declaration of Policy, Purpose, and Intent**

In order to conserve the available water supply and protect the integrity of water supply facilities, with particular regard for domestic water use, sanitation, and fire protection, and to protect and preserve public health, welfare, and safety and *minimize* the adverse impacts of water supply shortage or other water supply emergency conditions, Mason Creek Utility District, (the District), hereby adopts the following regulations and restrictions on the delivery and consumption of water.

Water uses regulated or prohibited under this Drought Contingency Plan (the Plan) are considered to be non-essential and continuation of such uses during times of water shortage or other emergency water supply condition are deemed to constitute a waste of water which subjects the offender(s) to penalties as defined in Section XI of this Plan.

## **Section II: Public Involvement**

Opportunity for the public to provide input into the preparation of the Plan was provided by the District by means of publication of meeting notice.

## **Section III: Public Education**

The District will periodically provide the public with information about the Plan, including information about the conditions under which each stage of the Plan is to be initiated or terminated and the drought response measures to be implemented in each stage. This information will be provided by means of direct mail and the District's web site.

## **Section IV: Coordination with Regional Water Planning Groups**

The service area of the District is located within the Region H Regional Water Planning Group and the District has provided a copy of this Plan to the Region H Regional Water Planning Group.

## **Section V: Authorization**

The President of the District, or his/her designee is hereby authorized and directed to implement the applicable provisions of this Plan upon determination that such implementation is necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare. The President of the District, or his/her designee, shall have the authority to initiate or terminate drought or other water supply emergency response measures as described in this Plan.

## **Section VI: Application**

The provisions of this Plan shall apply to all persons, customers, and property utilizing water provided by the District. The terms "person" and "customer" as used in the Plan include individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

## **Section VII: Definitions**

For the purposes of this Plan, the following definitions shall apply:

Aesthetic water use: water use for ornamental or decorative purposes such as fountains, reflecting pools, and water gardens.

Commercial and institutional water use: water use which is integral to the operations of commercial and non-profit establishments and governmental entities such as retail establishments, hotels and motels, restaurants, and office buildings.

Conservation: those practices, techniques, and technologies that reduce the consumption of water, reduce the loss or waste of water, improve the efficiency in the use of water or increase the recycling and reuse of water so that a supply is conserved and made available for future or alternative uses.

Customer: any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the District.

Domestic water use: water use for personal needs or for household or sanitary purposes such as drinking, bathing, heating, cooking, sanitation, or for cleaning a residence, business, industry, or institution.

Even number address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 and locations without addresses.

Industrial water use: the use of water in processes designed to convert materials of lower value into forms having greater usability and value.

Landscape irrigation use: water used for the irrigation and maintenance of landscaped areas, whether publicly or privately owned, including residential and commercial lawns, gardens, golf courses, parks, and rights-of-way and medians.

Non-essential water use: water uses that are not essential nor required for the protection of public, health, safety, and welfare, including:

- (a) irrigation of landscape areas, including parks, athletic fields, and golf courses, except otherwise provided under this Plan;
- (b) use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle;
- (c) use of water to wash down any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas;
- (d) use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
- (e) flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street;
- (f) use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools or jacuzzi-type pools;
- (g) use of water in a fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes except where necessary to support aquatic life;
- (h) failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s); and
- (i) use of water from hydrants for construction purposes or any other purposes other than firefighting.

Odd numbered address: street addresses, box numbers, or rural postal route numbers ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

## **Section VIII: Triggering Criteria for Initiation and Termination of Drought Response Stages**

The President of the District, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and shall determine when conditions warrant initiation or termination of each stage of the Plan. Public notification of the initiation or termination of drought response stages shall be by means of publication in the Katy Times, and the installation of roadside signs at all major entrances into the District.

The triggering criteria described below are based on the District's ability to maintain adequate system pressure for fire protection and normal daily water usage for the homes in the system.

### **(a) Stage 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions**

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be requested to voluntarily conserve water and adhere to the prescribed restrictions on certain water uses, defined in Section VII – Definitions, when one or more of the following criteria are met,

Example 1: When the water supply available to the District, is equal to or less than 65 % of storage capacity.

Example 2: When the static water level in the Districts well(s) drops below 400'.

Example 3: When the specific capacity of the Districts well(s) is equal to or less than 75 % percent of the well's original specific capacity.

Example 4: When total daily water demand equals or exceeds 2.5 million gallons for 3 consecutive days or 4.0 million gallons on a single day (e.g., based on the "safe" operating capacity of water supply facilities).

Example 5: Continually falling treated water reservoir levels which do not refill above 80 % percent overnight (e.g., based on an evaluation of minimum treated water storage required to avoid system outage).

Requirements for termination - Stage 1 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

(b) Stage 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses provided in Section VII of this Plan when examples 1 and 5 are met. (see examples above).

Requirements for termination - Stage 2 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 2, Stage 1 becomes operative.

(c) Stage 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 3 of this Plan when examples 1,4, and 5 are met. (see examples above).

Requirements for termination - Stage 3 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 3, Stage 2 becomes operative.

(d) Stage 4 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions on certain non-essential water uses for Stage 4 of this Plan when examples 2, 3, and 4 ( see examples above).

Requirements for termination - Stage 4 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days. Upon termination of Stage 4, Stage 3 becomes operative.

(e) Stage 5 - Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the requirements and restrictions for Stage 5 of this Plan when the President of the District, or his/her designee, determines that a water supply emergency exists based on:

1. Major water line breaks, or pump or system failures occur, which cause unprecedented loss of capability to provide water service; or
2. Natural or man-made contamination of the water supply source(s).

Requirements for termination – Stage 5 of the Plan may be rescinded when all of the conditions listed as triggering events have ceased to exist for a period of 3 consecutive days.

(t) Water Rationing

Requirements for initiation - Customers shall be required to comply with the water allocations as directed by the Board of Directors if the need for water rationing should ever arise.

Section IX: Drought Response Stages

The President of the District, or his/her designee, shall monitor water supply and/or demand conditions on a daily basis and, in accordance with the triggering criteria set forth in Section VIII of the Plan, shall determine that a mild, moderate, severe, critical, or emergency condition exists and shall implement the following actions upon publication of notice in a newspaper of general circulation:

Stage 1 - Mild Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a voluntary 25% percent reduction in daily water demand.

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions:

- (a) Water customers are requested to voluntarily limit the irrigation of landscaped areas to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and to irrigate landscapes only between the hours of midnight and 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to midnight on designated watering days.
- (b) All operations of the District shall adhere to water use restrictions prescribed for Stage 2 of the Plan.
- (c) Water customers are requested to practice water conservation and to minimize or discontinue water use for non-essential purposes.

## **Stage 2 - Moderate Water Shortage Conditions**

**Goal: Achieve a 30% percent reduction in daily water demand.**

Water Use Restrictions. Under threat of penalty for violation, the following water use restrictions shall apply to all persons:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems shall be limited to Sundays and Thursdays for customers with a street address ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6 or 8), and Saturdays and Wednesdays for water customers with a street address ending in an odd number (1, 3, 5, 7 or 9), and irrigation of landscaped areas is further limited to the hours of 12:00 midnight until 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight on designated watering days. However, irrigation of landscaped areas is permitted at any time if it is by means of a hand-held hose, a faucet filled bucket or watering can of five (5) gallons or less, or drip irrigation system.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane, or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rises. Vehicle washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station. Further, such washing may be exempted from these regulations if the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon: frequent vehicle cleansing, such as garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.

- (c) Use of water to fill, refill, or add to any indoor or outdoor swimming pools, wading pools, or jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight.
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
- (e) Use of water from hydrants shall be limited to firefighting, related activities, or other activities necessary to maintain public health, safety, and welfare, except that use of water from designated fire hydrants for construction purposes may be allowed under special permit from the District.
- (f) Use of water for the irrigation of parks, golf course greens, tees, and fairways is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight. However, if the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the District, the facility shall not be subject to these regulations.
- (g) All restaurants are prohibited from serving water to its patrons except when requested.
- (h) The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and are prohibited:
  - 1. wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots, tennis courts, or other hard-surfaced areas.
  - 2. use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection.
  - 3. use of water for dust control.
  - 4. flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
  - 5. failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).

### **Stage 3 - Severe Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 30% percent reduction in daily water demand.

Water Use Restrictions - All requirements of Stage 2 shall remain in effect during Stage 3 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 a.m. and between 8 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, drip irrigation, or permanently installed automatic sprinkler system only. The use of hose-end sprinklers is prohibited at all times.
- (b) The watering of parks and golf course tees is prohibited unless the golf course utilizes a water source other than that provided by the District.
- (c) The use of water for construction purposes from designated fire hydrants under special permit is to be discontinued.

## **Stage 4 - Critical Water Shortage Conditions**

Goal: Achieve a 40% percent reduction in daily water demand.

Water Use Restrictions: All requirements of Stage 2 and 3 shall remain in effect during Stage 4 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas shall be limited to designated watering days between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 midnight and shall be by means of hand-held hoses, hand-held buckets, or drip irrigation only. The use of hose-end sprinklers or permanently installed automatic sprinkler systems are prohibited at all times.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle not occurring on the premises of a commercial car wash and commercial service stations and not in the immediate interest of public health, safety, and welfare is prohibited. Further, such vehicle washing at commercial car washes and commercial service stations shall occur only between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and between 6:00 p.m. and 10p.m.
- (c) The filling, refilling, or adding of water to swimming pools, wading pools, and jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited.
- (d) Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a recirculation system.
- (e) No applications for new, additional, expanded, or increased-in-size water service connections, meters, service lines, pipeline extensions, mains, or water service facilities of any kind shall be allowed or approved.

## Stage 5 - Emergency Water Shortage Conditions

Goal: Achieve a 40% percent reduction in daily water demand.

Water Use Restrictions: All requirements of Stage 2, 3, and 4 shall remain in effect during Stage 5 except:

- (a) Irrigation of landscaped areas is absolutely prohibited.
- (b) Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is absolutely prohibited.

## Section IX: Water Rationing

In the event that water shortage conditions threaten public health, safety, and welfare, the Board of Directors is hereby authorized to ration water according to the following water allocation plan:

### Single-Family Residential Customers

The allocation to residential water customers residing in a single-family dwelling shall be as follows:

Persons per Household	Gallons per Month
1 or 2	6,000
3 or 4	7,000
5 or 6	8,000
7 or 8	9,000
9 or 10	10,000
11 or more	12,000

"Household" means the residential premises served by the customer's meter. "Persons per household" includes only those persons currently physically residing at the premises and expected to reside there for the entire billing period. It shall be assumed that a particular customer's household is comprised of two (2) persons unless the customer notifies the District's office of a greater number of persons per household on a form prescribed by the District. The Board of Directors shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every residential customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer's responsibility to go to the District's offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) persons per household. New customers may claim more persons per household at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the Board of Directors. When the number of persons per household increases so as to place the customer in a different allocation

category, the customer may notify the District on such form and the change will be implemented in the next practicable billing period. If the number of persons in a household is reduced, the customer shall notify the District in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) persons per household, the Board of Directors shall adopt methods to insure the accuracy of the claim. Any person who knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence falsely reports the number of persons in a household or fails to timely notify the District of a reduction in the number of persons in a household shall be fined not less than \$ 50.00. Residential water customers shall pay the following surcharges:

- \$ 3.00 for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 4.00 for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 5.00 for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 5.50 for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Surcharges shall be cumulative.

### **Master-Metered Multi-Family Residential Customers**

The allocation to a customer billed from a master meter which jointly measures water to multiple permanent residential dwelling units (e.g., apartments, mobile homes) shall be allocated 6,000 gallons per month for each dwelling unit. It shall be assumed that such a customer's meter serves one dwelling unit unless the customer notifies the District of a greater number on a form prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall give his/her best effort to see that such forms are mailed, otherwise provided, or made available to every such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such a form, it shall be the customer's responsibility to go to the District offices to complete and sign the form claiming more than two (2) dwellings. A dwelling unit may be claimed under this provision whether it is occupied or not. New customers may claim more dwelling units at the time of applying for water service on the form prescribed by the Board of Directors. If the number of dwelling units served by a master meter is reduced, the customer shall notify the District in writing within two (2) days. In prescribing the method for claiming more than two (2) dwelling units, the Board of Directors shall adopt methods to insure the accuracy of the claim. Any person who knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence falsely reports the number of dwelling units served by a master meter or fails to timely notify the District of a reduction in the number of persons in a household shall be fined not less than \$ 50.00.

*Customers billed from a master meter under this provision shall pay the following monthly*

*surcharges:*

\$ 3.00 for 1,000 gallons over allocation up through 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.

\$ 4.00 thereafter, for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation up through a second 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.

\$ 5.00 thereafter, for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation up through a third 1,000 gallons for each dwelling unit.

\$ 5.50 thereafter for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

Surcharges shall be cumulative.

### **Commercial Customers**

A monthly water usage allocation shall be established by the Board of Directors, or his/her designee, for each nonresidential commercial customer other than an industrial customer who uses water for processing purposes. The non-residential customer's allocation shall be approximately 75% percent of the customer's usage for corresponding month's billing period for the previous 12 months. If the customer's billing history is shorter than 12 months, the monthly average for the period for which there is a record shall be used for any monthly period for which no history exists. Provided, however, a customer, of whose monthly usage is less than 6,000 gallons, shall be allocated 6,000 gallons. The Board of Directors shall give his/her best effort to see that notice of each non-residential customer's allocation is mailed to such customer. If however, a customer does not receive such notice, it shall be the customer's responsibility to contact the District's office to determine the allocation. Upon request of the customer or at the initiative of the Board of Directors, the allocation may be reduced or increased if, (1) the designated period does not accurately reflect the customer's normal water usage, (2) one nonresidential customer agrees to transfer part of its allocation to another nonresidential customer, or (3) other objective evidence demonstrates that the designated allocation is inaccurate under present conditions. A customer may appeal an allocation established hereunder to the Board of Directors. Nonresidential commercial customers shall pay the following surcharges:

*Customers whose allocation is 1,000 gallons through 6,000 gallons per month:*

\$ 3.00 per thousand gallons for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.

\$ 4.00 per thousand gallons for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.

\$ 4.50 per thousand gallons for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.

\$ 5.00 per thousand gallons for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

*Customers whose allocation is 6,000 gallons per month or more:*

- 1.5 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons in excess of the allocation up through 5 percent above allocation.
- 2.0 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 5 percent through 10 percent above allocation.
- 3.0 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 10 percent through 15 percent above allocation.
- 3.5 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons more than 15 percent above allocation.

The surcharges shall be cumulative. As used herein, "block rate" means the charge to the customer per 1,000 gallons at the regular water rate schedule at the level of the customer's allocation.

### **Industrial Customers**

A monthly water usage allocation shall be established by the Board of Directors, or his/her designee, for each industrial customer, which uses water for processing purposes. The industrial customer's allocation shall be approximately 90% percent of the customer's water usage baseline. Ninety (90) days after the initial imposition of the allocation for industrial customers, the industrial customer's allocation shall be further reduced to 85% percent of the customer's water usage baseline. The industrial customer's water usage baseline will be computed on the average water usage for the 12-month period ending prior to the date of implementation of Stage 2 of the Plan. If the industrial water customer's billing history is shorter than 12 months, the monthly average for the period for which there is a record shall be used for any monthly period for which no billing history exists. The Board of Directors shall give his/her best effort to see that notice of each industrial customers allocation is mailed to such customer. If, however, a customer does not receive such notice, it shall be the customer's responsibility to contact the District's office to determine the allocation, and the allocation shall be fully effective notwithstanding the lack of receipt of written notice. Upon request of the customer or at the initiative of the Board of Directors, the allocation may be reduced or increased, (1) if the designated period does not accurately reflect the customer's normal water usage because the customer had shut down a major processing unit for repair or overhaul during the period, (2) the customer has added or is in the process of adding significant additional processing capacity, (3) the customer has shut down or significantly reduced the production of a major processing unit, (4) the customer has previously implemented significant permanent water conservation measures such that the ability to further reduce usage is limited, (5) the customer agrees to transfer part of its allocation to another industrial customer, or (6) if other objective evidence demonstrates that the designated allocation is inaccurate under present conditions. A customer may appeal an allocation established hereunder to the Board of Directors. Industrial customers shall pay the following surcharges:

*Customers whose allocation is 1,000 gallons through 6,000 gallons per month:*

- \$ 3.00 per thousand gallons for the first 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 4.00 per thousand gallons for the second 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 4.50 per thousand gallons for the third 1,000 gallons over allocation.
- \$ 5.00 per thousand gallons for each additional 1,000 gallons over allocation.

*Customers whose allocation is 6,000 gallons per month or more:*

- 1.5 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons in excess of the allocation up through 5 percent above allocation.
- 2.0 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 5 percent through 10 percent above allocation.
- 3.0 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons from 10 percent through 15 percent above allocation.
- 4.0 times the block rate for each 1,000 gallons more than 15 percent above allocation.

The surcharges shall be cumulative. As used herein, "block rate" means the charge to the customer per 1,000 gallons at the regular water rate schedule at the level of the customer's allocation.

## **Section X: Enforcement**

- (a) No person shall knowingly or intentionally allow the use of water from the District for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provision of this Plan, or in an amount in excess of that permitted by the drought response stage in effect at the time pursuant to action taken by President of the District, or designee, or the Board of Directors, in accordance with provisions of this Plan.
- (b) Any person who violates this Plan is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Each day that one or more of the provisions in this Plan is violated shall constitute a separate offense. If a person is convicted of three or more distinct violations of this Plan, the Board of Directors shall, upon due notice to the customer, be authorized to discontinue water service to the premises where such violations occur. Services discontinued under such circumstances shall be restored only upon payment of a re-connection charge, hereby established at \$25.00, and any other costs incurred by the District in discontinuing service. In addition, suitable assurance must be given to the Board of Directors that the same action shall not be repeated while the Plan is in effect. Compliance with this plan may also be sought through injunctive relief in the district court.
- (c) Any person, including a person classified as a water customer of the District, in apparent control of the property where a violation occurs or originates shall be presumed to be the violator, and proof that the violation occurred on the person's property shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the person in apparent control of the property committed the

violation, but any such person shall have the right to show that he/she did not commit the violation. Parents shall be presumed to be responsible for violations of their minor children and proof that a violation, committed by a child, occurred on property within the parents' control shall constitute a rebuttable presumption that the parent committed the violation, but any such parent may be excused if he/she proves that he/she had previously directed the child not to use the water as it was used in violation of this Plan and that the parent could not have reasonably known of the violation.

- (d) Any employee of the District, police officer, or Board Member designated by the Board of Directors, may issue a citation to a person he/she reasonably believes to be in violation of this Ordinance. The citation shall be prepared in duplicate and shall contain the name and address of the alleged violator, if known, the offense charged, and shall direct him/her to appear before the Board of Directors on the date shown on the citation for which the date shall not be less than 3 days nor more than 5 days from the date the citation was issued. The alleged violator shall be served a copy of the citation. Service of the citation shall be complete upon delivery of the citation to the alleged violator, to an agent or employee of a violator, or to a person over 14 years of age who is a member of the violator's immediate family or is a resident of the violator's residence. The alleged violator shall appear before the Board of Directors, to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty for the violation of this Plan. If the alleged violator fails to appear, a warrant for his/her arrest may be issued. A summons to appear may be issued in lieu of an arrest warrant. These cases shall be expedited and given preferential setting before the Board of Directors, before all other cases.

## **Section XI: Variances**

The Board of Directors, or his/her designee, may, in writing, grant temporary variance for existing water uses otherwise prohibited under this Plan if it is determined that failure to grant such variance would cause an emergency condition adversely affecting the health, sanitation, or fire protection for the public or the person requesting such variance and if one or more of the following conditions are met:

- (a) Compliance with this Plan cannot be technically accomplished during the duration of the water supply shortage or other condition for which the Plan is in effect.
- (b) Alternative methods can be implemented which will achieve the same level of reduction in water use.

Persons requesting an exemption from the provisions of this Ordinance shall file a petition for variance with the District within 5 days after the Plan or a particular drought response stage has been invoked. All petitions for variances shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors, or his/her designee, and shall include the following:

- (a) Name and address of the petitioner(s).
- (b) Purpose of water use.
- (c) Specific provision(s) of the Plan from which the petitioner is requesting relief.
- (d) Detailed statement as to how the specific provision of the Plan adversely affects the petitioner or what damage or harm will occur to the petitioner or others if petitioner complies with this Ordinance.
- (e) Description of the relief requested.
- (f) Period of time for which the variance is sought.
- (g) Alternative water use restrictions or other measures the petitioner is raking or proposes to take to meet the intent of this Plan and the compliance date.
- (h) Other pertinent information.

Variances granted by the District shall be subject to the following conditions, unless waived or modified by the Board of Directors or his/her designee:

- (a) Variances granted shall include a timetable for compliance.
- (b) Variances granted shall expire when the Plan is no longer in effect, unless the petitioner has failed to meet specified requirements.

No variance shall be retroactive or otherwise justify any violation of this Plan occurring prior to the issuance of the variance.

## **Section XII: Severability**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Directors that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable and, if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Plan shall be declared unconstitutional by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Plan, since the same would not have been enacted by the Board of Directors without the incorporation into this Plan of any such unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
MASON CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT ADOPTING A  
DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that the amount of water available to Mason Creek Utility District and its water utility customers is limited and subject to depletion during periods of extended drought;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that natural limitations due to drought conditions and other acts of god cannot guarantee an uninterrupted water supply for all purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 11.1272 of the Texas Water Code and applicable rules of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission require all public water supply systems in Texas to prepare a drought contingency plan; and

WHEREAS, as authorized under law, and in the best interests of the customers of Mason Creek Utility District, the Board deems it expedient and necessary to establish certain rules and policies for the orderly and efficient management of limited water supplies during drought and other water supply emergencies;

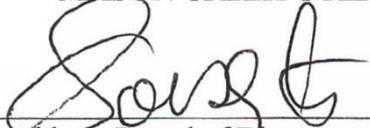
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MASON CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. That the Drought Contingency Plan attached hereto as Exhibit A and made part hereof for all purposes be, and the same is hereby, adopted as the official policy of Mason Creek Utility District.

SECTION 2. That the President, or in his absence, the Vice President is hereby directed to implement, administer, and enforce the Drought Contingency Plan.

SECTION 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

DULY PASSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MASON CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT, ON THIS 16th day of August, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Board of Directors

ATTESTED TO:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Directors

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF MASON  
CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT ADOPTING A DROUGHT CONTINGENCY  
PLAN**

Director Hamblet moved, seconded by Director King, that the measure be approved and adopted in substantially the form as presented to the Board with the minor amendments discussed, and that the officers of the District be authorized to sign, attest and certify the measure. After due discussion, the question was called, and the motion, carrying with it the adoption of the measure, was adopted and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Forsyth, Beustring, King, Hamblet and Sullivan  
Nays: None

A true and correct copy of the measure, as adopted, is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof

At this point, James Dougherty presented to the Board a proposal on the increase in the water rate schedule to as part of the ground water reduction plan. After discussion by the Board of the proposed rate increase of 25 cents per 1000 gallons, it was introduced for consideration of the Board:

**REVISED ORDER ESTABLISHING RATES AND POLICIES FOR  
WATER, SEWER AND OTHER SERVICES AND FACILITIES  
PROVIDED BY MASON CREEK UTILITY DISTRICT; PROVIDING  
FEES FOR CONNECTION, RECONNECTION AND INSPECTION;  
REQUIRING DEPOSITS FOR SERVICE; PROVIDING A POLICY  
REGARDING TERMINATION OF SERVICE FOR DELINQUENT  
ACCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR DELINQUENT PAYMENTS;  
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES AND PROVIDING FOR COMPLIANCE  
ORDERS; AND CONTAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO  
THE SUBJECT.**

Director Hamblet moved, seconded by Director King, that the measure be approved and adopted in substantially the form as presented to the Board with the amendments discussed, and that the officers of the District be authorized to sign, attest and certify the measure. After due discussion, the question was called, and the motion, carrying with it the adoption of the measure, was adopted and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Forsyth, Beustring, King, Hamblet and Sullivan  
Nays: None